



CROMER
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



THE SIXTY-THIRD

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Year Ending December 31st

1947

Printed by Cheverton & Son, Bond Street, Cromer.

Cromer Urban District Council

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Year Ending December 31st, 1947.

The Chairman and Members of the Cromer Urban District Council.

MISS HARBORD AND GENTLEMEN,

I wish to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year ending December 31st., 1947.

The preparation of this report has been delayed as it covers the period of office of my two predecessors, for this reason I do not feel that much more than a statistical survey can be offered.

The outstanding features of the year's work have been the transfer of duties from your part-time District Medical Officer of Health to a full-time Medical Officer of Health acting for the combined Districts of Cromer, North Walsham, Sheringham and the Erpingham Rural District. This transfer took place on June 24th., 1947.

Dr. R. C. MacLeod was the first holder of this post. The appointment is combined with that of Assistant County Medical Officer and School Medical Officer and also that of Medical Officer

to the Joint Isolation Hospital at Roughton. The programme of work is so arranged that the Medical Officer of Health is available in your District on an average of one half day a week.

It is necessary for me to draw your attention to the relatively small numbers in the various groups of statistics which are presented. I feel that too much significance should not be given to the exact percentages or other units which may be derived from them as it will be easily appreciated that a small variation in any group of figures will cause a considerable alteration in percentage. This gives rise to fallacies in interpretation and is always likely to occur where only small numbers are involved.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Infants may be immunised free of charge either by General Practitioners or in Infant Welfare Clinics or in special sessions held in local schools. The work is progressing in the District but it is felt that a true picture is not given by the number of notifications received; probably there is a higher immunisation rate than the figures indicate owing to some cases not being notified.

Poliomyelitis.

Poliomyelitis (commonly known as Infantile paralysis) caused grave concern in Britain in 1947. In the District only one case was notified. As yet we do not know how the disease is spread and so the highest standards of general hygiene are even more necessary in case some unrecognised loophole is left as a route of infection and a risk to the general community.

Water.

The Water Supply of the Urban District is piped from a deep well with the appropriate reservoir. The waterworks is the property of the District Council.

The water supplied is satisfactory in quantity and quality. Bacteriological analysis shows no evidence of contamination and all samples have been returned as "highly satisfactory." The supply is chlorinated before delivery. The water is not plumbo-solvent; in any case the tradition in this area is to use iron piping for domestic water supplies.

Population	...	...	...	...	...	4,170
Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	1,148
Number of Dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	1,770
Birth Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	20.5
Death Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	14.4
Live-Birth			Male		Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	33	...	58	91
Illegitimate	...	...	2	...	4	6
			—		—	—
			35		62	97
			—		—	—

Illegitimacy Rate 6.2%.

There were no still-births during the year.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age.

			Male		Female		Total
Legitimate	...	...	—	...	1	...	1
Illegitimate	...	...	1	...	—	...	1
			—		—		—
			1		1		2
			—		—		—

Deaths in the Urban District.

			Male		Female		Total		
			13		47		60		
Tuberculosis			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary				
Cases on Register			Male	Female	Male	Female			
(a)	End of 1946	...	6	...	6	...	3	...	3
(b)	End of 1947	...	9	...	6	...	4	...	5
Notifications of Infectious Disease.									
Poliomyelitis		...	...	...	...	1			
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis		...	...	...	...	1			
Scarlet Fever		...	...	...	...	2			
Measles		...	...	...	...	1			
Whooping Cough		...	...	...	...	2			
Chickenpox		...	...	...	...	6			

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation against diphtheria up the end of 1947.

These are shown in age-groups corresponding to the year in which they were born.

1946	1945	1944	1943	1938-42	1933-37	Total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5-9)	(10-14)	
23	24	26	18	132	148	371

No cases of Diphtheria were notified in the District during 1947.

Causes of Death.	Male	Female	Total
Influenza	—	1	1
Cancer	4	2	6
Cerebral Haemorrhage	—	10	10
Heart Disease	—	15	15
Other diseases of circulatory system	—	6	6
Bronchitis	2	1	3
Pneumonia	—	4	4
Other respiratory diseases	1	—	1
Other diseases of digestive system	3	1	4
Violent causes of death (other than Suicide and Road Accidents)	3	4	7
All other causes of death ..	—	3	3
	13	47	60

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1 (i) Medical Officer of Health (part time):

R. C. M. Colvin-Smith, B.A., M.B., B.CH., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., until June 24th., 1947.

R. C. MacLeod, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.
Whole-time with duties as Medical Officer of Health
of North Walsham and Sheringham Urban Districts
and Erpingham Rural District, Assistant County
Medical Officer, and Medical Officer of the N.E.
Norfolk Joint Hospital Board.

Surveyor, Sanitary Inspector and Water Works Engineer:
J. A. Haigh, F.F.A.S., A.M.I.S.E., Cert. R. San. Inst.

(ii) (a) Laboratory Facilities. Now given by the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service, City Isolation Hospital, Bowthorpe Road, Norwich.

(b) Ambulance Facilities. No change.

(c) Nursing in the home. No change.

(d) Treatment Centre and Clinic. No change.

(e) HOSPITALS. PUBLIC: Isolation Hospital, North
East Norfolk Joint Isolation Hospital at Roughton to
which cases are sent.

VOLUNTARY: Cromer and District, 48 beds.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Report furnished by the Sanitary Inspector under Article 27 of the Sanitary Officers (outside London) Regulations 1935.

The attempt to clear up conditions due to the war period has been very apparent during the year, and conditions during the year became more normal towards the end. The normal routine of the department was maintained as will be seen from the summary of inspections and visits made in 1947, as detailed below.

Summary of Inspections.

Inspections made regarding the repair and maintenance of	
Highways	250
Inspections of work in progress	215
Inspections of building for issue of Building Licences ...	217
Inspections as to salvage collections	45
Inspections regarding Scavenging and refuse disposal ...	50
Visits to Waterworks	61
Enquiries re water supplies	72
Inspections of Council Houses re repairs	54
Housing Inspections under Public Health Acts or Housing	
Acts	39
Re-inspections	39
Inspections of Food Shops	550
Inspections of Cowsheds and Dairies	63
Inspections of Bakehouses	60
Inspections of Sewers and Tanks	41
Miscellaneous Visits	73
Total Inspections made	
1829	

Salvage.

The collection of salvage has continued during the year.

House Refuse Collection.

The collection of refuse from Householders has been made regularly each week throughout the year. The Refuse Destructor was reconstructed and brought into action on November 13th., 1947.

Sewers and Sewage Disposal.

Plans, Estimates, -etc., were prepared during the year for a new scheme for surface water sewage in the Suffield Park Area.

This scheme is placed in a fairly low category by the Norfolk County Council.

Housing.

Housing still continues to be our most serious problem, and a total of 40 Council Houses had been erected to the 31st., December, 1947.

No attempt can be made to clear unfit houses at the present time, except that unfit houses will not be relet when the present inhabitants have been rehoused.

Water Supply.

The water supply is ample, and the quality good. The present requirement is filtration.

Food Supply.

I beg to call attention to one serious problem which causes great concern, that is the aftermath of war-time slackness in the preparation and handling of food.

Examples of this are Ice Cream served on paper owing to the shortage of Biscuits, bread served without wrapping owing to the paper shortage, fish and chips served in newspaper in contact with printers' ink, fish sent to the retailer in open containers, slackness in personal hygiene of operatives owing to soap and towel shortage, and in some classes of food a lowering of the standard of the food supplied.

May one suggest that the fixing of a national standard for Ice Cream is sadly needed, and that butter which has been refrigerated should be supplied to retailers in smaller quantities to ensure quick sales, as this food seems to deteriorate quickly if not kept refrigerated.

Some great improvement is overdue in the cleansing of utensils in the cafe and boarding house establishments, and the minimum standard should be the two sink wash and rinse, with efficient sterilisation in the case of Ice Cream utensils and servers.

This is more necessary in the pleasure resorts owing to the summer rush trade.

Sanitary Inspections of the Area.

Tabular Statement furnished by the Sanitary Inspector under Article 27 (18) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935.

House to House Inspections	...	...	...	...	73
Inspections under Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	39
Inspections of Nuisances discovered	...	...	...	...	30
Re-inspections to ascertain progress	...	...	...	...	30
Visits in connection with Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	13
Inspections of Cowsheds and Dairies	...	...	...	...	63
Inspections under Factories and Workshops Act	...	...	...	...	23
Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	10
Inspection of Tenements	...	...	...	...	25
Inspections of Foodshops other than Dairies and Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	550
Premises Disinfected	...	...	...	...	6
Rooms Disinfected	...	...	...	...	8
Drainage Systems tested	...	...	...	...	53
Committee Meetings attended	...	...	...	...	12
Preliminary Notices served	...	...	...	...	0
Legal Proceedings taken	...	...	...	...	0
Premises found defective by house to house inspection	...	...	...	...	39
Premises found defective by workshop inspection	...	...	...	...	0
Premises found defective by tenement inspection	...	...	...	...	1
Statutory Notices Served	...	...	...	...	0
Housing.					

No action taken.

I wish to acknowledge the valuable assistance of Mr. Haigh, your Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor, in the preparation of this report.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient servant,

W. S. PARKER,
Medical Officer of Health.

Health Offices, Area No. 2,
Norwich Road,
CROMER.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	21	60	Nil	Nil	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	7	12	Nil	Nil	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	2	6	Nil	Nil	3
TOTAL		30	78	Nil	Nil	

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of Cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	M/c line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred To H.M. In- spector (5)	Referred By H.M. In- spector (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	4	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	4
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	5	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	5
Unreasonable temp'ture (S.3)	6	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	6
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	7	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)							
(a) insufficient	9	Nil	Nil	Nil	2	Nil	9
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	10
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	11	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	11
Other offences (not includ'g offences relating to outwork)	12	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	12
TOTAL	60	2	Nil	Nil	2	Nil	60

OUT-WORKERS NIL

